

This was all the attention I gave it, except that once in a while during the next six weeks I moistened the surface with water at about the temperature of my hand, using a watering pot, and trying to use about as much water as would fall on that amount of surface in a moderate summer shower. I cannot say how many times this was done for I kept no notes, but not more than three or four at the most.

Mushrooms appeared in about six and a half weeks and the bed continued to bear for about four weeks. At the end of that time I put on four inches more loam, when the bed started up again and bore for about a fortnight longer.

I cannot give any figures as to the quantity of mushrooms gathered. It may seem strange that no notes were kept, but the fact is I did not enter upon the undertaking in any scientific way, and was not disposed to give much care or thought to it; but I thought it would be worth while to see whether the cultivation of mushrooms in a cellar was a difficult or an easy process. If it had proved difficult I should have dropped it at once. All I can say, then, is that there were mushrooms every day and sometimes they were gathered three times a day. They were large, fleshy, and of good flavor. No trace of any other kind of fungus appeared from first to last.

As to the difficulty, I never encountered it. Of course it may be I was especially favored by good fortune, but the fact that the same processes repeated the next year yielded practically identical results seem to show that there is no difficulty about it, at least on a small scale. It is more than probable that when carried on continuously and on the large scale complications would arise, and I should hesitate myself to undertake it without much more careful study than I have ever given to the subject.

The question is often raised whether the odor from the bed is noticeable. In my experiments there was no odor whatever from first to last. None could be detected even at the surface of the finished bed except the odor of mushrooms after the bed began bearing.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

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THE YELLOW-FRUITED FORM OF *ILEX OPACA* AT NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS.— Attention was called in *RHODORA* of December, 1900, to a new station for the rare yellow-fruited *Ilex verticillata*, Gray. During the recent holiday season a collector of evergreens

for decorative purposes brought to New Bedford a few branches of a yellow-fruited Holly, *Ilex opaca*, Ait. The fact was called to my notice, when I immediately sought out the farmer who had found the tree and engaged him to pilot me to the spot. It was not an easy task to find it in the deep woods of oak and pine with snow lying on the ground, but persistent effort at last revealed the object of our search. It was a slender, symmetrical tree, 18 to 20 feet in height, with the trunk five inches in diameter at the ground. The abundant clusters of berries were looser, and the bright, yellow fruit somewhat smaller than the typical form.

The "Illustrated Flora" mentions the variety as rarely occurring, and it is quite remarkable that the two rare varieties of the same genus should be found but a few miles apart. — E. WILLIAMS HERVEY, New Bedford, Massachusetts.

## A NEW VARIETY OF *JUNCUS TENUIS*.

M. L. FERNALD.

(Plate 23.)

DURING the past July Mr. Emile F. Williams found at Van Buren, Aroostook County, Maine, a singular rush, unlike any of the forms recognized in America. In the light of Dr. Wiegand's excellent paper<sup>1</sup> and the authenticated specimens in the Gray Herbarium and the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club, Mr. Williams's plant is confidently placed with *Juncus tenuis*. In its loose broad sheaths with prolonged white scarious auricles and in its greenish flowers it is clearly a form of this species, but in its inflorescence it is very unlike any described variety.

The short conspicuously secund branches of the inflorescence suggest at first *J. secundus*, Beauv., but in that the branches of the inflorescence are very ascending or even incurved, and the bract is distinctly shorter. In Mr. Williams's plant, on the other hand, the very short branches are widespreading or recurved and much exceeded by the bracts. In the secund arrangement of its flowers the plant approaches also Dr. Wiegand's *Juncus tenuis*, var. *anthelatus*;

<sup>1</sup>*Juncus tenuis* Willd. and some of its North American Allies; Bull. Torr. Club, xxvii. 511-527.